

**THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

26 MAR 1979

NOTE TO THE DIRECTOR

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I am delighted that you will be featuring the Review Panel in your next "Notes from the Director." They have already made a valuable contribution to improving the quality of major assessments and I very much value their support. I strongly advise against issuing a press release about the Review Panel, however. To do so now would, in my view, only imply that the Panel was created in response to alleged failures in the Iranian situation rather than as part of our long-standing effort to improve the quality of analysis.



Robert R. Bowie

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ASSESSMENTS REVIEW PANEL

The new Assessments Review Panel, established to assist the Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment and me in improving the quality of major intelligence products and their usefulness to policymakers, has now been operating for several months. Its functions are to review both Intelligence Community and National Foreign Assessment Center products at various stages in their preparation, to audit finished intelligence, and to advise the Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment in overall production planning. The Panel promises to provide a valuable crosscheck on our objectivity by ensuring an independent view of both the process and the product of intelligence.

Our analytical effort will benefit from the cumulative experience and acumen of the three distinguished panel members: Ambassador William Leonhart, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who bring with them a wealth of relevant experience from the diplomatic, academic and military communities.

I know that all employees join me in welcoming the members of the Assessments Review Panel as they join us in our common goal of providing the leaders of our government with the best intelligence analysis of which we are capable. Following is a brief introduction to each panel member.

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Ambassador William Leonhart

Ambassador Leonhart is a graduate of West Virginia University, earning an A.B. in 1939, and Princeton University where he earned a M.A. in 1941 and a Ph.D. in 1943. He advanced through the ranks of the Foreign Service to Career Minister, and has served in Buenos Aires, Rome, Phnom Penh, Saigon, Vientiane, London, Dar es Salaam, Tokyo (twice) and Belgrade (twice). He attended the Imperial Defence College in 1958. Ambassador Leonhart has been a member of State Department's Policy Planning Staff 1955-57; Deputy, then Special Assistant to the President, 1966-68; Deputy Commandant for International Affairs, National War College, 1972-1975; and Vice President, National Defense University, 1975-1977.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ASSESSMENTS REVIEW PANEL NOW OPERATING

A new Assessments Review Panel is in fulltime operation at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

The panel has been established to assist the Director of Central Intelligence and his Deputy for National Foreign Assessment in improving the quality of major intelligence products and their usefulness to policymakers. Its functions are to review both Intelligence Community and National Foreign Assessment Center products at various stages in their preparation, to audit finished intelligence, and to advise the Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment in overall production planning.

These three distinguished Americans who form the panel, Ambassador William Leonhart, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] bring to their work a wealth of relevant experience from the diplomatic, academic and military communities.

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NOTE: Brief biographies of Panel members attached.

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